
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS
THE SCOPE AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY
SERVICES PATIENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that sick and vulnerable
2 patients and their family members can easily become overwhelmed
3 within the medical system, especially when emergency medical
4 attention is necessary; and

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6 WHEREAS, patients may be unaware of their rights regarding
7 the treatment and care they receive from their emergency room
8 physicians; and

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10 WHEREAS, patients or family members may disagree with the
11 diagnosis or treatment plan provided by the emergency room
12 physicians, but they feel forced to accept the treatment plan
13 despite their concerns because they are unaware of how to
14 effectively exercise their rights to secure appropriate and
15 available emergency medical care; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that a patient
18 advocate is needed to assist in the effective case management
19 of, and to enhance communication among, patients, family
20 members, and health care providers in emergency situations; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Director of
26 Health is urged to convene a task force to assess the scope and
27 feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient
28 advocate program to provide assistance to, and advocate on
29 behalf of, patients receiving emergency medical care; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
2 director's designee serve as the chairperson of the task force;
3 and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
6 following members:
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- 8 (1) The Director of Health or the director's designee;
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- 10 (2) Four representatives from the Healthcare Association
11 of Hawaii, each of whom is to be a resident of one
12 each of the following counties: City and County of
13 Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and
14 County of Maui;
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- 16 (3) Four representatives from the Subarea Health Planning
17 Council of the State Health Planning and Development
18 Agency under section 323D, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 20 (4) The directors of emergency rooms, or designees, from
21 hospitals located in Hawaii; and
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- 23 (5) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed
24 by the Director of Health; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:
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- 28 (1) Examine and identify current practices in emergency
29 services patient advocacy;
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- 31 (2) Assess and identify best practices in emergency
32 services patient advocacy;
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- 34 (3) Make recommendations on how to effectively implement
35 an emergency services patient advocate program,
36 including a timetable for implementation; and
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- 38 (4) Determine the costs of implementing, and resources
39 necessary to implement, an emergency services patient
40 advocate program; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force be
43 subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because



1 of that member's participation as a member of the task force;
2 and;

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a report
5 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
6 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
7 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the task
10 force's actions in assessing the scope and feasibility of
11 establishing an emergency services patient advocate program; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be terminated on
14 June 30, 2015; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
18 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare
19 Association of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Statewide
20 Health Coordinating Council.

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